

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 304011
ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 USIA-06 SCA-01 EB-07 COME-00 /025 R

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R 151928Z DEC 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMCONSUL IBADAN
AMCONSUL KADUNA
INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, OEXC, NI

SUBJECT: FESTAC (JANUARY 15 - FEBRUARY 12)

REF: LAGOS 13769 NOTAL

1. RESPONSE TO PARA 3 SECTIONS A AND C PROVIDED IN
PATRICK/CROSBY OFFICIAL-INFORMAL SENT BY POUCH DECEMBER 13.
SUMMARY BELOW.REPLY TO PARA 3, SECTION D, FOLLOWS SEPTTEL.

2. NIGERIAN EMBASSY VISA OFFICER SAID THIS WEEK THAT NO
RPT NO VISAS ISSUED SO FAR TO AMCITS FOR TRAVEL TO FESTAC.
WE HAVE MADE WRITTEN REQUEST TO EMBASSY THAT THEY INFORM
DEPT OF NUMBER OF AMERICANS WHO OBTAIN VISAS FOR FESTIVAL
PERIOD. WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED.

3. HENDERSON TRAVEL SERVICE OF ATLANTA IS ONLY GROUP WHICH
ADMITS IT IS ORGANIZING A TOURIST CHARTER. HENDERSON
OFFERS THREE PACKAGES FROM NEW YORK TO: 1) LAGOS; 2) LAGOS
AND ABIDJAN; 3) LAGOS, ACCRA AND ABIDJAN. EACH TOUR CAN
ACCOMMODATE UP TO 100 PERSONS AND LASTS ABOUT 15 DAYS.

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TOURS BEGIN JANUARY 13 AND CONTINUE EACH WEEK THEREAFTER
FOR FOUR WEEKS.TOUR TO LAGOS INCLUDES ACCOMMODATIONS IN

FESTIVAL VILLAGE AT THREE RATES: CATEGORY C- DOLS 899 PER PERSON; CATEGORY B- DOLS 965; CATEGORY A- DOLS 1039.

TOUR PACKAGE DOES NOT RPT NOT INCLUDE MEALS IN LAGOS.
(PROSPECTIVE TOURISTS BEING TOLD THEY CAN BUY MEALS AT CAFETERIAS NEAR FESTIVAL SITE).

COST OF MEALS AND SIGHTSEEING ARRANGEMENTS OUTSIDE OF NIGERIA ARE INCLUDED IN PRICES OF OTHER TWO PACKAGES. PRICE OF MOST EXPENSIVE PACKAGE DOLS 1459. HENDERSON TRAVEL DESIGNATED OFFICIAL TRAVEL AGENCY FOR TOURS TO FESTAC BY NIGERIAN EMBASSY. MR. HENDERSON'S BEST GUESS IS THAT PERHAPS 500 AMERICAN TOURISTS MAY GO TO FESTAC.

4. DEPARTMENT WILL LEAVE IT TO US ZONAL COMMITTEE TO INFORM PARTICIPANTS OF CONDITIONS IN LAGOS, AND TO TRAVEL AGENCY TO APPRISE TOURISTS OF SITUATION. HENDERSON TRAVEL HAS SOME KNOWLEDGE-EXPERIENCE LAGOS AND WEST AFRICA (THEY ARRANGED TOURS TO DAKAR FESTIVAL AND DEVELOPED TOUR PACKAGES FOR LAGOS FESTIVAL FOR EARLIER DATES). AGENCY HAS INFORMATION HANDOUTS AND PRECAUTIONARY SUGGESTIONS AVAILABLE FOR PROSPECTIVE TOURISTS.

5. DEPARTMENT HAS INFORMED USG AGENCIES AND BUREAU THAT ADVANCE APPROVAL OF TRAVEL TO NIGERIA MUST BE SECURED FROM EMBASSY LAGOS DURING FESTAC PERIOD.

6. TO DATE CU ASSISTANT SECRETARY RICHARDSON HAS NOT RECEIVED INVITATION TO FESTIVAL. WILL INFORM EMBASSY OF RICHARDSON'S PLANS WHEN INVITATION RECEIVED. KISSINGER

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